

MUSIC BRITPOP LOVERS TEAM UP
IN DIAGON ALLEY **P.3**

TRAVEL WEEKEND TRIP TO HEBEI'S
CULTURAL CAPITAL **P.5**

FOOD WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED
AT THE TEMPLE FAIR **P.8**

今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

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REALISM AND DECAY

ZHAO TIANSHUN SEEMED DESTINED FOR A LIFE OF
HARDSHIP IN A FACTORY UNTIL A VISIT TO HIS UNCLE'S
WORKSHOP PUT A PAINTBRUSH IN HIS HANDS. **P.4**



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Beijing Youth Daily Group President: Zhang Yanping
Editor-in-Chief: Yu Haibo ■ Director: Li Xiaobing
Address: Building A, 23 Baijiazhuang Dong Li,
Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100026

BT

Editor-in-Chief: Jack Wang ■ Content Director: Su Derui ■ Designer: Zhao Yan ■ Phone: (010) 6590 2515 ■ FAX: (010) 6590 2525
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ENTERTAINMENT



Photos by CFP & douban.com

TVB's Pilot Drama a Film Triumph

BY DIAO DIAO

One of the first TVB dramas to really take off on the mainland was *Triumph in the Skies*, a 40-episode drama that explored the lives of pilots working for the fictional Solar Airways. The show spawned a

sequel in 2013 and a film adaptation released last week.

As one of TVB's most successful series to date, the 2015 film *Triumph in the Skies* had big shoes to fill – shoes that would require more than mere hand-

some pilots, hot stewardesses and a cast of stars.

The cast includes such Hong Kong actors as Louis Koo, Sammi Cheng, Julian Cheung and Charmaine Sheh. Francis Ng reprises his role as pilot Samuel Tong.

While it may not be the season's finest film, directors Wilson Yip and Matt Chow offer an alternative to Hong Kong's favorite go-to characters: lawyers, cooks and teachers.

For most viewers, even fans of the original series, the lives of pilots and stewardesses still offer something fresh and unfamiliar. The plane-related lingo and shots of the cockpit were also quite popular.

A cast of handsome and mature actors didn't hurt either. Unlike teen dramas,

Triumph in the Skies features a more mature cast with the acting talent needed to make their characters seem natural and vivid.

The film also benefitted from cooperation between the production team and the Airport Authority of Hong Kong, who assisted in making sure the movie's airport reflects the daily reality of life near the runway.

For netizens, the show offers a new chance to roll out some favorite catch phrases from the last decade. Quotes like, "Hey, the most important thing of life is to be happy!" "Are you kidding me?" "I didn't mean to do it! He forced me!" and "Have you ever cared about my feelings?" are finding new life as contemporary memes. ■

Disabled Poet Breaks the Chinese Mold

BY DIAO DIAO



It's not every year that a title like "I Crossed Half of the Country to F--k You" makes the list of popular Chinese poetry. Penned by Yu Xiuhua, the poem is one of the most popular in her *Moonlight on the Left Hand* collection published on February 1.

Yu was born in a small farming village in Hubei province in 1976. An accident during delivery caused her to develop cerebral palsy, which left her with an exceptionally odd gait.

After graduating from high school, Yu opted to stay home and work on her writing. Her first collection of poems was published in 2009, collecting the best and most painful works from her blog. Last year, Yu's work finally appeared in the popular *Shi Kan* poetry magazine.

But her identity as both a farmer and disabled writer has made Yu's work controversial.

For a culture that tends to embrace flowery and indirect speech, Yu's direct verses like "These are the essential reasons I have to f--k you" can be off-putting.

But famous poets have risen to Yu's

defense, stating her work is quite similar to Chinese debate tradition. "Her poems do not push readers with argumentative words. There are no explanations or conclusions given, but the poem is still worth reading," said Liao Weitang, a Hong Kong writer.

Scholar and poet Shen Rui called Yu "the Chinese Emily Dickinson."

"Compared with most Chinese female poets, Yu's words are not decorated. They shine and shock you with pain," Shen said.

Liu Nian, editor of *Shi Kan*, said Yu is a "brain-damaged woman," but that she has an extraordinary talent. Her work is like a murderer hidden in a crowd of delicately dressed women.

But for many netizens, that's a tough sell.

On the mass market, Chinese poetry is read more for its flowery metaphor than its style. Yu's work offers little in the way of mental imagery that Chinese readers have come to love.

"I can't say what poetry is. I just know that sometimes, verses create a sparkle in my mind that takes me up or down. I see



poetry like a walking stick that calms me when I tremble," Yu said.

Moonlight on the Left Hand includes more than 100 of Yu's poems about love, kinship and the meaning of life. ■

MUSIC

Britpop Fans Team Up Diagon Alley

BY DIAO DIAO

It was a passion for Britpop that first brought sophomore singer Wang Yifeng, bassist Wang Sixing, keyboard player Cheng Meihao and drummer Liu Jingyu together. Together they are Diagon Alley, one of Beijing's many Britpop-inspired bands.

Founded in 2013 as Vegetable Racing Car, the crew took their new name from the famous fictional alley featured in the Harry Potter series of novels.

"Diagon Alley contains magical things that bring people happiness and make life interesting. We want to bring people the same with our music," Wang Yifeng said.

Most of the group's songs combine simple melodies with Britpop and garage punk riffs. While the style may be nothing new, their songs sound very different.

"We don't really follow the way pop music is made today. People are always tweaking with love songs or other soulless pap that was made without much thought. Our music sounds less produced since we write it as a release," Wang Yifeng said.

Singer Wang Yifeng writes the foundation of most of the group's songs since he knows what fits his own voice. "We work on own parts and swap material over emails so that we can figure out how to make it all come together at rehearsal," he said. "It's only music if we all bring a bit of ourselves into each song."

But the journey from those

emailed bits to a finished song can be quite long, Cheng said.

"I'm always impressed with what Wang Yifeng sends us for inspiration. But the big challenge is fitting that into a rhythm with all the other parts. We have to explore a lot of possibilities to figure out what fits out style," Cheng said.

The band's most popular song is "Take You Away," a love song that describes the wish to escape with one's beloved to a carefree world.

Another of the songs, "Lost," was created earlier in the group's career when a graduation almost led to their breakup. Wang Jingyu, the only member who had finished school, told the other members that he was only coming to rehearsal to avoid giving up on his dreams.

Diagon Alley had a big show at the 2014 Strawberry Music Festival and held a widely attended unplugged concert in Ditan Park.

"We had a lot of interaction with the people who were just passing by. A lot stopped to smile and sing with us. It was a much more nervous and personal experience than appearing on a big stage," Wang Jingyu said. "It's hard to describe how happy I felt when I saw a little kid dancing to our music."

With songs designed to record their life experiences, Diagon Alley's members are more concerned about losing their dreams than their jobs.

At the end of the day, it's the rock that supports them. ■



Photos by Diagon Alley



LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Bu Yao Band @ 69 Cafe

Bu Yao Band is the project of a German poet, an American drummer and a Chinese erhu player. The band's songs are poems that tell of trips, love stories, journeys and freedom.

February 28, 9-11 pm

109 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

30 yuan

Guo'an Fans Club @ Mao Live House

To show support for fans of China's Guo'an Football club, Green Glory is inviting Nasty Ray, Yu, The Diders, Er Yi Band, Li Shi Band and Cross to celebrate the festival at MAO Live House. The night's prizes include shoes and other gifts.

February 28, 7-11 pm

111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

80 yuan (Guo'an fans)

Flamenco Night @ Jianghu Bar

Carmela, a researcher at Oriental Performing Arts Group, is bringing her dance skills to Jianghu Bar. Carmela has been to Spain many times and studied with Alicia Marquez, Manuel Betanzos, La Truco and many other Flamenco masters, and learned to sing Flamenco with famous teachers such as La Divi, Lidia Montero.

February 28, 9:30-11:30 pm

7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou
Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

50 yuan



Blues Jam Session @ Jianghu Bar

Jianghu Bar is providing a stage for blues fans to communicate every Sunday at 9 pm. Stop by to watch or jam along to standards from the Mississippi, Texas, Chicago, Memphis and New Orleans blues scenes.

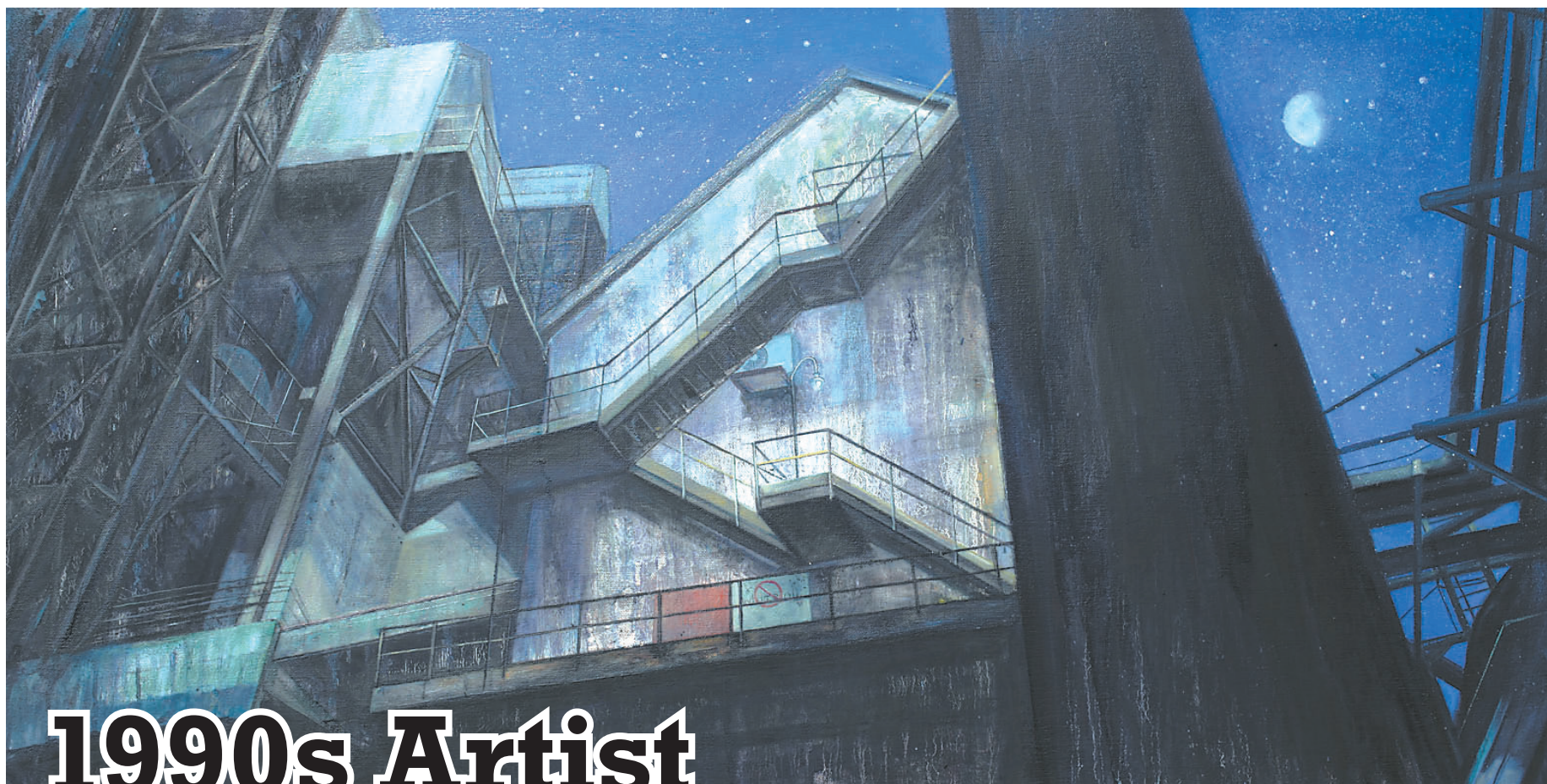
March 1, 9:30-11:30 pm

7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou
Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

Free



ARTISTS



1990s Artist Chases Super Realism



Photos by Zhao Tianshun

BY LYNNE WANG

Zhao Tianshun never enjoyed the advantages of his artistic peers. Denied access to a paintbrush until he was 16, the artist's early life appeared to be fated for struggle and hardship in a State-owned factory.

Born in Wuhan, Hubei province in 1991, Zhao grew up in a working class family with few connections to the artistic world. But that changed in 2007 when a distant uncle in Beijing invited him to spend some time in his studio by North Forth Ring Road.

"Seeing him being absorbed in creating in such a large space, I was totally enchanted. I started to fantasize about working an artist like him," Zhao says.

After returning to Wuhan, Zhao enrolled in a pre-session course at the Hubei Institute of Fine Arts, Central China's top art school. Without any painting experience or art education, Zhao spent two years catching up on the basic skills and knowledge that his peers had already mastered. He was admitted to the school in 2010 and graduated last June.

"I've known it's hard to become a successful artist since before I stepped into the art world, but I love painting from the bottom of my heart," he says.

Zhao's works focus on his personal experiences in factories and danwei housing.

"The Second Opium War of the

1850s turned Wuhan into a city full of foreign concessions. Many of them are still standing today," he says. "I live in Old Hankou, [a once prosperous treaty port city] with many old buildings that inspire me to create."

Zhao's Factory series shows off his obsession with mottled buildings that have been marked by history and time. Using hard silhouettes and geometric shapes, he exposes the delicate underlying structures of Chinese factories. Blue and purple give his paintings a silent and solemn tone with a weird sense of super-realism.

"I love super-realism. I love European science fiction films. The works of Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte and Tang Hui have significantly shaped my style," Zhao says.

However, confusion over the future has dragged Zhao from his imaginative world into reality since graduating from Hubei Institute of Fine Arts last year.

"When I draw the first picture of the Factory series, my motives were pure. But during the six months since graduation, I've felt lost and depressed: especially after failing the postgraduate entrance exam for the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) earlier last year," Zhao says.

The Wasteland series he created in this period is the best mirror for Zhao's bewilderment. While dilapidated buildings remain the main theme of the work, odd elements

such injured elks, floating feathers and medical staff in biochemical suits appear in the picture. The illusory and disordered scenes represent the young artist's anxiety over his future.

Witnessing Zhao's struggle, one of his friends persuaded him to paint something that would be more "welcomed" by the market compared to his houses and factories. Zhao took his advice and painted *Paradise Lost*, but it was a decision he would regret.

"I expected to just change the style and colors, but when I was drawing I felt miserable. I realized that this was not what I wanted to express through my brush. Although I finished it, it's something I don't want to show to others," he says.

Zhao says he is determined to follow his heart and paint what he really wants to express. Some exhibitions have invited him to display his creations since the end of last year and two pictures from the Factory series were sold to private collectors.

This year, Zhao failed the entrance exam for CAFA's master's program for a second time. But even without the support of China's top art school he remains confident he can realize his dreams.

"Uncertainty used to hurt, but now I just want to embrace it because it means endless possibilities," Zhao says. ■

artand.cn/l648bp

A TRAVEL



Statue of Zhao Yun in the city square

Hebei's Lost Cultural Capital

BY LI RUIQI

Although everyone knows the Chengde Mountain Resort of the Qing Dynasty, questions about the cultural treasures of Hebei province can leave many Chinese confused.

But that's not without good reason.

Only 15 kilometers from the farming village turned capital of Shijiazhuang is Zhengding, the forgotten cultural capital of Hebei province and one of the oldest cities in northern China. Together with Beijing and Baoding, the city was one of the most important political and commercial centers in China for 2,000 years.

For those with a passion for history or an interest in what Beijing may have resembled had its development followed a path less marred by demolition, Zhengding makes a great weekend trip.

City Wall

Beijing lost its city wall and many of its hutong in the name of "progress." But history still stands in Zhengding.

The decision to create a new capital in Shijiazhuang in 1947 spared Zhengding from the demolition seen in many major Chinese cities. The city's 24-kilometer long walls and dozens of alleys are so perfectly preserved that a visit to Zhengding feels like stepping into Beijing's past.

The city wall was first constructed from stone during the Northern Zhou Dynasty (AD 557-581) and expanded in Tang dynasty to prevent floods.

During the Ming dynasty, the city wall was rebuilt with a smooth brick face and gates were cut to allow entrances to the city in the four cardinal directions.

In late 1940s, the city wall played a critical role in several major battles between the

Communist and Nationalist armies during the Chinese Revolution. The east gate was buried for defense, but the other gates remain open to the public and appeal to photographers looking to capture Chinese history.

A single ticket to the top of the wall costs 15 yuan.

Rongguo Mansion

Rongguo Mansion For fans of the 1986 TV adaptation of *A Dream of Red Mansions*, Rongguo Mansion is a must visit location. The spacious courtyard was reproduced according to Cao Xueqin's description in the original work.

Yi Yuan, the west garden with pavilions, a stream and a little bridge, epitomizes the art of Suzhou garden design. The Ming dynasty furniture and thousands of antiques in each room embody the prosperity enjoyed by the noble class at the peak of their power.

The mansion opens to a commercial street called Ning Rong Street that has plenty of small cafes and eateries. The 51 shops along the street have placards that resemble shops of the Ming dynasty. It's like hanging around an ancient Chinese bazaar where vendors hawk their goods in a Hebei accent.

The mansion and street have recently found new fame since the public learned they were the projects of President Xi Jinping when he was still the party secretary of Zhengding in the 1980s.

◆ 40 yuan

Home of Heroes

Zhao Yun, hero of the state of Shu Han, was born in Zhengding, Changshan according to the *Records of the Three Kingdoms*.

As the modern incarnation of that ancient city, Zhengding has a temple to Zhao Yun that displays the manger of his famous white horse and many ancient weapons and ceramics that have been excavated throughout the city. The temple is located beside Rongguo Mansion.

Just down the street is the Longxing Temple, one of Zhengding's major tourist attractions and the best preserved ancient Buddhist temple in northern China.

Built in Sui Dynasty, the temple is home to the biggest copper Buddha ever cast in ancient China and some amazingly preserved frescoes. The temple is also known for its upside down icon of Avalokitesvara and Moni Palace, which architect Liang Sicheng called a miracle of Chinese Song dynasty architecture.

Zhao Yun Temple

➔ East corner of Xingrong Lu, Zhengding
◆ 30 yuan

Longxing Temple

➔ 109 Zhongshan Dong Lu, Zhengding
◆ 50 yuan

Other Sites of Interest:

Lingxiao Pagoda Also known as the "Wooden Pagoda," the Lingxiao Pagoda is a nine-story pagoda that dates back to the Tang Dynasty. The current facade dates back to Song Dynasty in AD 1045.

Xumi Pagoda

Named for Mount Sumeru, the Xumi Pagoda is part of the Kaiyuan Monastery. It has a geometric design with some very unusual lishi along the base. The monastery grounds are largely destroyed, but they still contain a colossal stone bixi, a



Hua Pagoda

Photos by Su Derui



Murals at Longxing Temple

mythical tortoise-shaped beast.

Hua Pagoda

First erected during the Tang Dynasty, the highly unusual Hua Pagoda took on its current form when it was rebuilt during the Jin Dynasty (AD 1115-1234). The top-most layer of the pagoda is decorated with rich carvings of Buddhas, elephants and aquatic animals. ■

Tips

Visit the Xumi Pagoda at the Kaiyuan Monastery first. The ticket booth sells a combination ticket that can get you into all the city's tourist attractions and saves as much as 100 yuan.

Transportation

➔ Drive 280 kilometers south along G107. It takes a little more than 5 hours to reach Zhengding. Alternatively, you can take a high-speed train from Beijing South Railway Station to Shijiazhuang. The trip takes 90 minutes. Take a taxi or bus from the Shijiazhuang station to Zhengding.



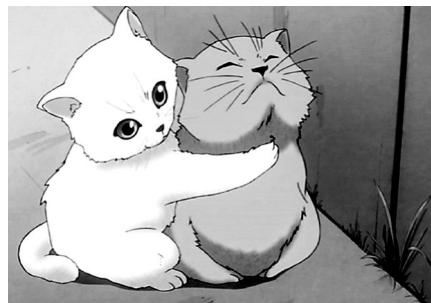
BY DIAO DIAO

Kēngdiē (坑爹) is an adjective to describe something bad or troublesome. The phrase is usually used when someone feels like they've been cheated. Diē normally means father, but in the phrase it means "me." It's commonly heard in online gaming when one's teammates abandon him.

These two are some of the most common phrases both on the web and on the lips of anyone born in the 1990s. Gāodàshàng (高 大 上) is a mash-up of gāoduān (高端) (high end) dàqì (大气) (rich) and shàngdàngcì (上 档 次) (tasteful). It's also often used sarcastically to describe people who pretend to be classy.

Dīshē (低奢) is the antonym meaning low-class but luxurious.

Àojiao (傲娇) describes people who don't often show emotion or who have a blank face even if they are quite warmhearted and passionate. It's most often applied to introverted types who rarely show how much they care about their friends and blush when caught. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



*Tango studies at Tsinghua University's
Academy of Art and Design.*

For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [@tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

A. It's hard to say. If you are actually being

The ACPO Criminal Records Office (ACRO) in the UK issues Police Certificates to people who want to emigrate or who have been required to produce a Police Certificate (sometimes known as a "Certificate of Good Conduct") by an embassy, high commission or consulate.

If it turns out that you need such a certificate, you will have to contact the ACPO Criminal Records Office. More details can be found at its website.

Q. I am flying into Beijing during the Chinese Spring Festival holiday and realized that I have so much luggage that I will need to rent a car or van. Can

A. You can get an Uber van (UberX) for a flat rate of 300 yuan. Payment can be made using your credit card, as with Uber rides anywhere in the world. Avoid hiring an illegal driver at the airport as you may end up paying triple. Also, don't forget to ask your hotel if they have a shuttle in place.

Q. Where can I buy vegetarian products in Beijing, such as mock meat?

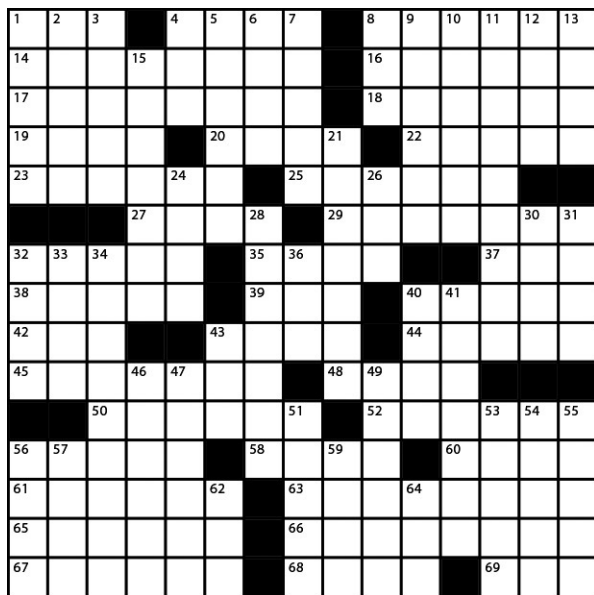
A. You can try some Buddhist restaurants in Beijing. Taobao.com has a few dealers who specialize in vegan-friendly products as well. For more information, try Beijing Vegan and Vegetarian Meetup. It arranges potluck vegan dinners and other vegetarian and vegan events quite often. ■

HANZI PICROSS: MING

[illegible]

Follow the clues on the top and left to
blacken squares and reveal the character.

THE BEIJING TODAY CROSSWORD



1. Legendary boxer
4. Musical genre

8. Crispy jianbing filling
14. Lantern Festival treat
16. Agreement
17. Scrambled breakfast
18. Flood

19. Muck
20. On the ocean
22. Musical notes
23. One of 100 in a baht
25. Purple flowers
27. Indian tree
29. Soliloquists
32. Tamed in Shakespeare
35. US ruler unit
37. Hack off
38. Yorkshire city
39. Sound of relief
40. Clay brick
42. Age
43. Top-notch
44. Healed
45. Balmy
48. Indian wrap
50. Increase
52. African grasslands
56. Flattery
58. Greek letter
60. US Corn Belt state
61. Xixia's people
63. Fertilizer component
65. Power source

66. Racks for washed dishes
67. Had an archaic opinion
68. Certain Slav
69. Snoop

1. Building blocks
2. She-demon
3. Inactive
4. Cereal grain
5. Power failure
6. Known for their nine lives
7. Genuflect
8. Wicked
9. Perfume ingredient
10. Timely contraction
11. Mentor
12. Desire
13. Bad day for Caesar
15. Reaped after reapers
21. Between Gs and Is
24. Kind of paper
26. Musical syllable
28. Temple fairs

30. Loose garment
31. Raced
32. Dispatched
33. Olympian queen
34. Shuffle
36. Indian bread
40. Farm unit
41. Festive couplets
43. Venomous snake
46. Spot for notes
47. Protected
49. Incarnation
51. Frogs' hangouts
53. Pampers
54. Ninny
55. Smart-mouthed
56. Ragout
57. Lion feature
59. Sap
62. Man's nickname
64. Poke fun at

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

ART



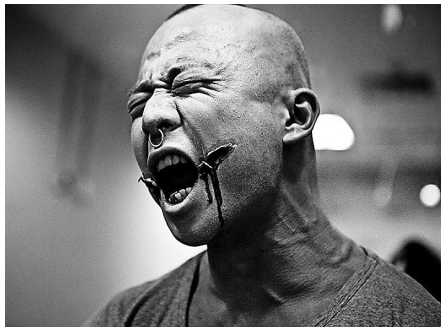
4 Senses: A Collaboration of 14 Photographers

The Universe is perceived through our senses: they are the tools by which information is processed to build an image of the outside world, experience life and acquire memories.

Through "4 Senses," these artists try to persuade you to experience, perceive and understand reality in a whole new world of artistic imagination.

Each photographer has his favorite songs, scenes, aromas, textures and flavors, making his or her work unique.

- ⌚ 6 pm, March 7 (opening day);
9 am-midnight, through May 1
- 📍 Cafe Zarah, 42 Gulou Dong Dajie,
Dongcheng
- ☎ (010) 8403 9807
- 🌐 cafezarah.com



JUE and Wizard Tang Photo Exhibition

There are boundaries between sounds, sights, illusions and faith. There are boundaries between life and death, dreams and reality, suffering and joy. JUE and Wizard Tang tear these boundaries down and open the door to a world obsessed and possessed by life.

Wizard Tang documents the underground rock scene in China through his stunning images. As the official photographer of the Midi, Strawberry and Summer Sonic Music Festivals, he portrays intimate moments of artists as well as their on-stage hype. He has photographed such bands as Metallica, Mr. Big, Behemoth, Suicide Silence and Chinese underground legends such as XTX, Secondhand Rose and Queen Sea Big Shark.

JUE | Music + Art was founded in 2009 to bring the creative communities of Shanghai and Beijing together. Its promoters bring together artists from across the spectrum to present a multi-venue, multi-disciplinary romp in mid-March. Its exhibitions are a snapshot of China's creative development.

- ⌚ 5 pm-midnight, March 12-22
- 📍 Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu,
Dongcheng
- 💎 80 yuan (at door); 60 yuan (students)
- ☎ (010) 6404 2711
- ✉ info@yugongyishan.com
- 🌐 yugongyishan.com

DINING



The Bar-BQ February Special

In order to continue its search for the ultimate in eating experiences, By the Tree has turned into The Bar-BQ. The restaurant offers American slow-smoked barbecue favorites. Try the chopped brisket sandwich, pork spare ribs, Buffalo wings or meat combo with beer and cocktails.

This month, save 50 percent on all kinds of dishes on Sundays and Mondays. Stop in on Tuesdays for buy-one-get-one-free sliced brisket sandwiches. Chopped brisket sandwiches are buy-one-get-one-free on Wednesday. Thursday features an all-night Happy Hour. Save half off on pork spare ribs on Fridays and cheeseburgers and snacks on Saturdays.

- ⌚ 5 pm - 2 am, February 28
- 📍 The Bar-BQ, 2F Youyi Youth Hostel,
Bei Sanlitun, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 6415 9954

MUSIC



German Comedy Duo Coming to Beijing

Nothing is more relaxing than a good comedy. Crowne Plaza Beijing Sun Palace is bringing in the popular German stand-up comedy duo of Klaus and Klaus to Beijing on February 28.

The show offers participants an afternoon winter walk in the park to warm up the fun. Perks include a German family style dinner, free beer, dancing and singing. Explore an evening of great German culture in this waggish comedy show!

Founded in 1980, Klaus and Klaus earned their name with appearances on

various television programs and their first single, *A Horse Standing in the Hallway*. They made bigger breakthrough in 1985 with *On the North Sea Coast*, which sold more than 750,000 copies.

- ⌚ 6-10 pm, February 28
- 📍 Crowne Plaza Beijing Sun Palace,
Yunnan Dasha, 12 Middle Street,
Chaoyang
- 💎 428 yuan net per person
- ☎ (010) 6429 8888 ext. 6651



Golden Era of Thrash Metal is Back

Believe it or not, thrash is back with Warbringer. Almost 25 years after the genre's widely acknowledged "first shot" from Metallica's *Kill 'Em All* (1983), thrash metal is making a significant comeback in its original, largely authentic form.

Most young bands pursuing the classical thrash sound are boring and forgettable imitators of the 1980s legends rather than musical innovators. That's where Los Angeles' own Warbringer bring hope into the picture, foisting a very impressive debut in 2008.

- ⌚ 8-11:30 pm, March 11
- 📍 Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu,
Dongcheng
- 💎 200 yuan (door)
130 yuan (presale)
- ☎ (010) 62159844
- ✉ info@yugongyishan.com
- 🌐 yugongyishan.com

COMMUNITY



Changes in Australian Financial Services in China

AustCham Beijing is inviting Minister Counselor (Economics) Lachlan Crews and Minister Counselor (Treasury) David Woods to explain recent changes in the Australian financial services sector in

China at AustCham's first regulatory update from the Australian Embassy in 2015.

There have been many recent developments in the Australian Financial Services Industry in China during 2014 and leading into 2015, AustCham's regulatory update will be a great way to understand recent changes and the opportunities these open for Australian finance. There are many opportunities for Australian businesses seeking to transact in Chinese yuan.

- ⌚ 5pm - midnight, March 5
- 📍 China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai
Dajie, Chaoyang
- 💎 100 yuan, 50 yuan (members)
- ☎ (010) 6505 2266
- ✉ tash.jamieson@austcham.org
- 🌐 shangri-la.com

第四届杰出女性颁奖典礼 The 4th Annual WOW Awards

8 March 7:30pm
An evening of networking with
Wonderful Outstanding Women
on International Women's Day

3月8日 晚上 7:30
谁是你的“女神”？
来结交北京最精英女性吧！

Includes:
Award Ceremony 颁奖仪式
Live music 现场音乐表演
Free flow of drinks 免费酒水

地址：亮马桥希尔顿
票价：早鸟票 199元
现场购票 260RMB
Venue: The Hilton Beiji
Tickets: pre-sale 199R
on the night 260RMB
email: info@fcgroup.c
or call (010) 5240 19
Web: www.fcgroup.c

4th WOW Awards

The 2015 WOW Awards recognizes the work of the Wonderful Outstanding Women in Beijing. This event is special: so special that it deserves its own day.

There are many women, both Chinese and Foreign, who better the city and excel in their professional fields. This award ceremony congratulates them for their achievements during the last year.

The ceremony will be attended by the 2015 WOW Award nominees and is open to all who would like to meet with some of Beijing's best.

- ⌚ 7:30-10:30 pm, March 8
- 📍 Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dong-
sanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang
- ☎ 13911098002
- 💎 199 yuan (early bird);
260 yuan (at door)
- ✉ info@fcgroup.org
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HOLIDAY FOODS

Temple Fair Foods at Spring Festival



BY DIAO DIAO

With the first week of Spring Festival behind us, most of the city's temple fairs are closing up. Temple fairs are a custom of China's Han ethnicity, and the community events offer a venue for religious services, entertainment, games and shopping.

This year, Beijing's biggest temple fairs were at Ditan Park, Longtanhu and Grand View Garden. The fairs are famous for attracting crowds of people with their wide selection of street food, carnival

games and other activities.

For regional restaurants throughout the city, the fairs are a chance to show off some of China's more eye-catching local creations.

Beijing restaurants often set up stands to sell traditional snacks and drinks like aiwowo, lüdaguan and douzhi, a potent smelling fermented soymilk. They also offer other favorites like guanchang and youcha.

Guanchang is a streetside snack made of flour and red yeast rice. The pieces are

fried in oil and have a crispy coating and soft taste. Diners dip them in garlic juice before eating.

Youcha is also a common sight at temple fairs. The porridge is made of flour cooked in a pan with tail fat. By stirring in hot water, nuts and sugar, it becomes a tasty dessert or breakfast.

Other Beijing snacks at temple fairs include fried tofu served in soup stock and tanghulu, colorful skewers of candy-coated hawthorns. ■



CFP Photos

Wangfujing Snack Street

BY DIAO DIAO

Most of Beijing's temple fairs closed on Wednesday, but you can still find their treats at Wangfujiang's famous snack street. Located near the Haoyou Shijie Plaza, the street has hundreds of vendors who serve up famous snacks and peddle handicrafts and other souvenirs.

The first section of the street has takeaway snacks such as kabobs, tanghulu, chatang and jianbing. The vendors usually work out of small windows decorated in traditional style.

Past the first section are a few larger restaurants where people can stay for a rest. Most are given poetic names that represent the different characteristics and cuisine of China's provinces.

Temple fair favorites abound.

Visitors can find sweet tanghulu in virtually any season. There are also plenty of vendors serving youcha, child-shaped tangren lollipops and kabobs of every meat imaginable.

For regional favorites, you can try a bowl of Shanxi noodles, Sichuan malatang, lotus noodles, Changsha's stinky tofu, Yunnan rice noodles and Saniao Niuwan, a kind of beef meatball with syrup filling.

Many of the vendors still practice yaohe, a sales performance that involves announcing their wares in an unusual intonation. Many sound like singing but with a very simple rising and falling melody.

Wangfujing's food street is open all year. During festival season, the street is decorated with red lanterns that are lit each night. ■



Wangfujing Snack Street

➔ 281 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Make Your Own Pineapple Rice

BY DIAO DIAO

Pineapple rice is one of the most popular foods at temples fairs. The rice tastes sweet and sour and has a strong, fruity fragrance.

The dish is made by stuffing a hollowed-out pineapple with cooked rice. The pineapple preserves both the fragrance of the fruit and the temperature of the rice. Leftover rice can be used to make pineapple rice.

Ingredients:

- ☐ 1 pineapple
- ☐ 200g rice
- ☐ 1 egg
- ☐ oil
- ☐ salt
- ☐ cooked beans
- ☐ corn
- ☐ sausage
- ☐ green onion



The Steps:

1. Hollow out a pineapple and avoid damaging the outer coating. The pineapple shell is used to contain the rice.
2. Clean the beans and corn. Cut the sausage into small squares about the same size as the corn kernels. Cut the pineapple into small squares. Mince the green onion.
3. Mix the rice with a cooked egg.
4. Heat some oil in your skillet. Add the corn kernels and beans.
5. Add the pineapple squares and rice. Stir-fry for no more than 3 minutes. Add the green onion and cook for one more minute.
6. Remove the rice and stuff it inside the pineapple shell.